

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 AID-05 IO-13 /089 W
-----161513Z 064473 /43

P R 161453Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5672
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02882

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GW
SUBJECT: GENSCHER'S VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

1. DIRECTOR OF FONOFF DEPARTMENT FOR NEAR EASTERN
AFFAIRS BOECKER HAS CALLED OUR ATTENTION TO THE
FOLLOWING NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON FOREIGN MINISTER
GENSCHER'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT. BOECKER, WHO ACCOMPANIED
GENSCHER ON THE TRIP, SAID THIS REPORT, IN GENERAL,
REFLECTS THE CONTENT AND NUANCES OF GENSCHER'S TALKS
IN DAMASCUS, AMMAN AND CAIRO AND REQUESTED THAT WE
BRING IT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT. END CONFI-
DENTIAL

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

2. THE ARTICLE BY WOLF BELL APPEARED IN BONN'S
GENERAL ANZEIGER ON FEBRUARY 14 AND IS ENTITLED "IT'S
ISRAEL'S TURN NOW FOR A SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST
CONFLICT; ARAB GOVERNMENTS CREATE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS
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BY REALISTICALLY ASSESSING EXISTING POSSIBILITIES."

BEGIN TEXT:

ISRAEL NEEDS PRECISE FRIENDS - BUT NOT FRIENDS THAT
RECOMMEND AND INSIST ON OUTDATED POSITIONS. THOSE
FRIENDS MUST HELP ISRAEL OVERCOME THE "FORTRESS

MENTALITY" IN WHICH IT IS CAUGHT AND GAIN CONFIDENCE IN THE POSSIBILITY OF A PEACEFUL FUTURE. HANS DIETRICH GENSCHER'S TRIP TO SYRIA, JORDAN AND EGYPT MADE THE CONTOURS OF SUCH A FUTURE DISCERNIBLE, BUT THE FABRIC THAT CAME INTO BEING IS STILL A TENDER ONE, AND ANY FALSE MOVE MAY TEAR IT.

FOR THE TIME BEING THE DECISIVE PREREQUISITES FOR PROGRESS TOWARD A LASTING SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT DEPEND IN GREAT MEASURE ON AGREEMENT AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT ARAB LEADERS IN ASSESSING THE FUTURE OF DEVELOPMENTS. AFTER THE GERMAN-ARAB EXPLORATORY TALKS, INTER-ARAB ACCORD IS SEEN ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

1. THE NECESSITY TO TERMINATE THE EXISTING STATE OF WAR HONORABLY IN ORDER TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO CONCENTRATE ON THE EXISTING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES IN ALL THREE COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN EGYPT.

2. THE NOTICEABLY GROWN RESERVATIONS VIS-A-VIS THE GREAT POWERS, ESPECIALLY VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIET UNION WHOSE PARTICIPATION IN A MIDDLE EASTERN SOLUTION OUGHT TO BE LIMITED, ACCORDING TO ARAB IDEAS, TO ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AS A GUARANTEEING POWER.

3. THE EXAGGERATED ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE EUROPE CAN PLAY AND THE DESIRE INCREASINGLY TO INVOLVE
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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 02882

THE EUROPEANS, NOT ONLY THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT ALSO INCLUDING MORE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO ECONOMIC STABILIZATION AND PARTICIPATION IN GUARANTEES FOR A FUTURE PEACE SOLUTION.

4. THE MORE SKEPTICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLE OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THE TREND TO RECOGNIZE OTHER PALESTINIAN FORCES AND TO ALLOW THE PALESTINIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA ONLY AS PART OF A JOINT DELEGATION WITH JORDAN OR, IF NEED BE, IN AN ALL-ARAB DELEGATION.

5. THE READINESS TO POSTPONE THE BEGINNING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE FROM THE END OF MARCH TO A LATER DATE, BUT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN EARLY SUMMER IN VIEW OF CURRENT DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES, THE TRIPS TO WASHINGTON PLANNED BY ARAB STATESMEN, AND THE ISRAELI

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ELECTIONS IN MAY.

6. THE INDIGNATION AT THE CONTINUATION OF THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENT POLICY IN OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES THAT IS INTERPRETED AS AN EXPRESSION OF UNCHANGED HOSTILITY, AND THE READINESS TO TALK IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS ALSO ABOUT CERTAIN BORDER CORRECTIONS, PROVIDED ISRAEL IS READY ON PRINCIPLE TO GIVE BACK ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

7. AND, FINALLY, THE WAITING FOR THE DECISION OF THE NEW AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ON ITS FUTURE MIDDLE EAST POLICY AND THE DEMAND THAT ISRAEL'S FRIENDS BRING ABOUT ISRAELI CONCESSIONS IF NEED BE "THROUGH MASSIVE PRESSURE"; IN DOING SO, ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST WILL NO LONGER BE DISPUTED. (THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE

PLO IN CAIRO ON MARCH 12 IS LIKEWISE EXPECTED TO COME OUT WITH A CLEAR STATEMENT IN THIS REGARD.)

THERE IS NO MISTAKING THE FACT THAT THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS HAVE COME ROUND TO A MORE REALISTIC WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS. THIS BECOMES PARTICULARLY CLEAR IN THE IDEAS JORDAN'S KING HUSAYN DEVELOPED IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE WEEKLY DIE ZEIT THAT WAS PUBLISHED ON THE DAY HIS WIFE ALIA WAS BURIED. IT MAY BE SAID TO REFLECT EXACTLY THE IDEAS CROWN PRINCE HASSAN DEVELOPED IN HIS TALK WITH GENSCHER, AND THERE ARE SIGNS INDICATING THAT THESE VIEWS ARE SHARED BY THE PRESIDENTS OF SYRIA AND EGYPT, ASSAD AND SADAT

END TEXT.

3. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH A SUMMARY OF THE HUSAYN INTERVIEW, EXCERPTS FROM WHICH WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTEL.
STOESSEL

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